



# HUMMIN'

[www.pvsbaudubon.org](http://www.pvsbaudubon.org)

Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society

Vol. XLVII #4 July-August 2025

## Bocas Del Toro Hawkwatch By Jess Morton



Two years ago, I went to Panama to visit Hawkwatch, one of the great hawk migration sites in the world on the Caribbean coast. Like Monterrey's River of Raptors, where North American migrants funnel through the narrow gap between high mountains

and the sea, Hawkwatch, in the state of Bocas del Toro, taps an even great flood of birds. Five million passed by last year! The program is run by Guido Berguido and his non-profit conservation organization Adopta Bosque Panamá. While Adopta's principal activity is tied to its three habitat preserves, including the cloud forest on Cerro Chucantí, Adopta works with indigenous communities around the country to promote education and conservation. Indeed, Hawkwatch is one of these. Community members have been trained to recognize the many species of raptors passing through, and are paid to tally numbers daily.

Although nationwide demonstrations prevented my getting to Hawkwatch, I did see a lot of migrating birds, just not the one million that flooded past on the day I had planned to be there! You can hear a lot more about this and other Adopta activities at our chapter's August meeting and learn why we strongly support its work. It's where all the flyways come together.

## Monthly Meeting Programs

Please join us on July 15th for our regular monthly meeting when photographer Rafa Ramirez discusses the ins and outs of wildlife photography and presents a portfolio of his outstanding work, including amazing images of our local Peregrine Falcons.



*Meetings can also be attended from home via the Zoom link noted on the website.*

Guido Berguido, founder of Adopta Bosque Panamá joins us on Aug.19 to outline his plans to have Adopta's Chucantí Cloud Forest Reserve and its two sister wildlife sanctuaries become core areas for three new Panamanian national parks.



## Volunteer Help Wanted!

PV/SB Audubon is looking for a volunteer for the Board for: Vice President

The Vice President will work closely with the President in managing the affairs of the Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society.

Prospective volunteers please contact us and provide a short resume at:  
[info@pvsbaudubon.org](mailto:info@pvsbaudubon.org)



## Presidential Update

### By Ann Dalkey

The past couple of months have been a roller-coaster to say the least. In May, we had a full board including a Vice President with Richard Watson, and then Poof! everything changed.

For starters, Jazmín Rios resigned as Secretary due to her work demands. That position was easily filled with a candidate who will be announced later this month.

Next, we had a big surprise when Richard resigned his position, but for a good reason. Richard's wife accepted a lucrative position in North Carolina. Despite his short tenure on our Board, Richard contributed substantially to the activities of the Chapter and will definitely be missed. An announcement for a candidate is posted in this Hummin' newsletter.

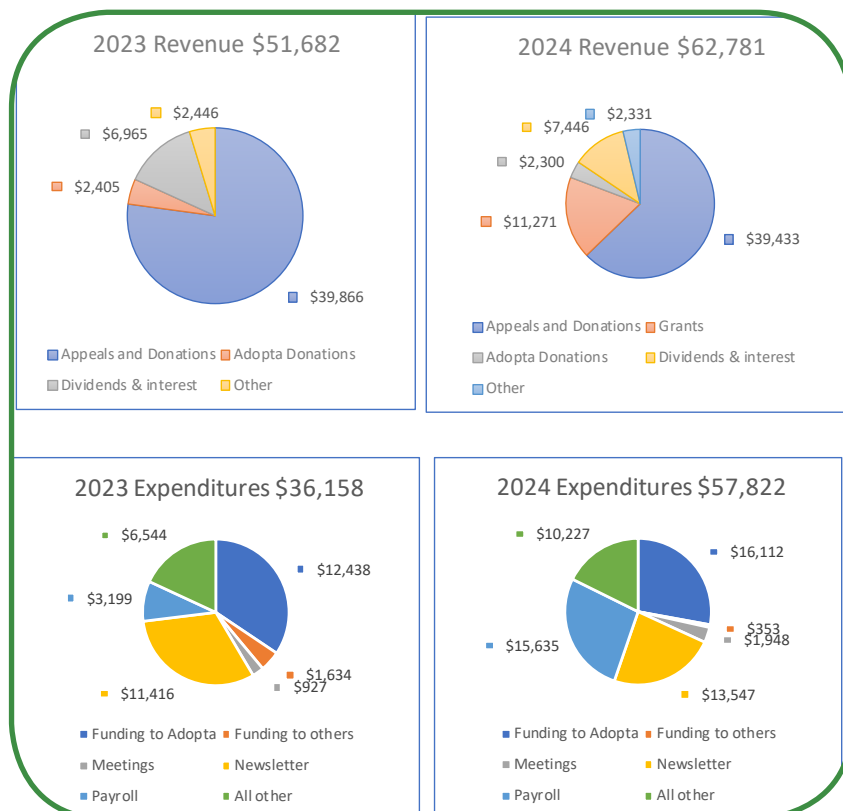
Now I'll turn my thoughts to the Chapter's communications. We have put a lot of effort into our website: [pvsbaudubon.org](http://pvsbaudubon.org) in hopes to provide a colorful and easy to navigate product. Also it stands as an easy means for conducting individual conversations with the Chapter Members. Hopefully you've noticed the recent changes to our website that allows for easier management of the content that enables a more diverse content. It provides a great way to learn about upcoming events, videos of previous Chapter Meetings, a long list of newsletters dating back to 2006, and general information about our Audubon Chapter. Also, scanned excerpts of newsletter dating back to 1979 are also archived on the website, accessed by a click of a button on the website.

And there's more! The website contains photos taken by our local birders plus a photographic birding guide posted by National Audubon.

Field trips hosted by Ann and Eric Brooks are listed on the website along with information on the Birdathon events, a great fund-raiser for our chapter. Lastly, you can learn about the paperwork side of our chapter, including the Board and Committee members, the Chapter Bylaws, and even the geographical range of our chapter's cover. Anyone living within this geographical area automatically becomes a member of the Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society when they join the National Audubon Society... a two for one deal!

## Treasurer's Report

Our Audubon chapter is in good financial shape. A strong base of donations, return on endowment and small grants let us pursue important educational and conservation work here and abroad. Hummin', about a quarter of annual costs keeps you informed, while volunteers minimize operational costs. Please consider making a recurring grant from your tax-free giving account, or use Paypal to make a monthly donation. Dependable income streams like these help us fulfill our mission..



## "Wander here the whole summer"

### - John Muir

### By Keith Haney



Admittedly, I'm relieved that spring has waned and we've eased into summertime. Don't get me wrong, I love the excitement of spring – our native plants are finally blooming, the birds put on their breeding plumage, we enjoy the seasonal visits from the migrants, and of course there are the adorable sights and sounds of babies everywhere. It's impossible not to get caught up in the frenetic energy of nature's growth and renewal and we race to observe all we can before this brief window closes. But once summer arrives, it's a very welcome chance to take a deep breath and slow down a bit as nature also prepares for the hot and dry season ahead.

The keen, hard-working students at Rolling Hills Prep have begun their time off from school following a very productive season of habitat restoration for the Palos Verdes blue butterfly. And thanks to a grant from the National Audubon Society, our chapter has been able to purchase over 100 deerweed plants (one of the only two host plants the PV blue butterfly relies on) to be planted in the habitat at Rolling Hills Prep at the end of the year. In the meantime, I will continue working in the habitat over the summer to prepare for the deerweed planting

and am grateful for chapter volunteers like Matt Rodriguez who have come out to help remove non-native plants. Please reach out if you're interested in learning about how you may help with this effort.

Our surveys of Western Snowy Plovers draw to a close for the summer, and I appreciate the team of Bailey Price, Bill Tymczyszyn, Greg Hachigian, Jennifer Altergott, Kiersten Lo, Mercy Prado-Marchese, Omid Karger, and Shula Colton who walked the miles on Hermosa Beach with me counting the cute little birds. We'll be back at it in September and I'd love to hear from you if you'd like to join us.

We continue seeking ways to increase our chapter's engagement with the community, and hopefully you were able to stop by and say, "Hi!" to us while hosting the Audubon table at both the Madrona Marsh's Nature Festival and International Bird Rescue's Open

House this spring. You may have also seen me with a class of UCLA marine biology students providing interpretation for the shorebirds we were observing at Ocean Trails Reserve, or teaching the scouts of troop 961 about bird nesting boxes and how to appropriately construct them. Would you like to share your passion for birds, nature, and conservation with

others? The Friends of Madrona Marsh are seeking docents to guide students through the marsh next school year and will provide you with training this summer. See the "Volunteer" page of their website if interested ([www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com](http://www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com)).

Please take some time to wander this summer (as John Muir suggested) and send me an email if you'd like to hear more about the various ways you can engage in our chapter's activities: [ProjectManager@PVSBAudubon.org](mailto:ProjectManager@PVSBAudubon.org)





## Birds of the Peninsula April - May 2025 By Vincent Lloyd

The winter rains, such as they were, fizzled out during the period: there was 0.5 inch in April and just a trace in May. The last significant rain was on Apr 26. The total rainfall for the season since October was 6.0 inches (the long-term average is about 12 inches). The low temperature during April and May was 45°F on Apr 4; the high was 95°F on May 10.

Just after the end of the period an astonishing bird showed up: the **Swallow-tailed Kite** that



Swallow-tailed Kite  
Photo: Kim Moore

Gina DiPietro found circling over Harbor Park on Jun 3. This beautiful, graceful kite is similar to the White-tailed Kite but about half again as large. Its main range is tropical South America, where it is a permanent resident. However, about 3% of the world population breeds in the Southeast United States, from Texas to South Carolina, and winters in South America. It is rare in California; prior to 2024 there were only two accepted records, one in 2007 and another in

2016. Last year, Swallow-tailed kites were seen in Encino, Ventura County, and Point Reyes in April and May; it's possible that they were all the same individual. This year, a kite was seen in Ventura County on Apr 26, in Riverside on May 10, in the Tijuana River Valley in San Diego later the same day, and in Huntington Central Park on May 25. These sightings and the one in Harbor Park could conceivably be all the same individual — perhaps even the same bird that visited California last year. Could it be the bird is wandering around aimlessly trying to find a member of the opposite sex?

As for the **White-tailed Kite**, the only sightings during the period were at Point Fermin on Apr 9 (S. Hostens, M. Olivares Herrera) and Harbor Park on Apr 13 (Manuel Duran). A late **Northern Harrier** passed through Madrona Marsh on Apr 29 (Melody Haughton) and a still later **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was harassing a larger **Cooper's Hawk** at George F Canyon on May 5 (Randy Harwood). A **Bald Eagle**



Bald Eagle  
Photo: Randy Harwood

soared over Angel's Gate Park in San Pedro on Apr 4 (Wrenn Repp); a second conducted a sit-in at Rancho Palos Verdes City Hall on May 19 (Randy Harwood). Meanwhile, Kim Moore photographed two **Swainson's Hawks** (one light phase, one dark phase) passing over her home in Long Beach on May 7. Seldom seen

around here these days, a **Burrowing Owl** hung around the Fish Docks at L.A. Harbor for a couple of weeks from May 2 to May 18 (Dave Katz). Late **Merlins** were spotted at the Willow Street crossing of the L.A. River on Apr 8 (Dick Barth) and Magic Johnson Park on Apr 20 (Joshua Mitchell).

The last of the two **Tropical Kingbirds** that spent the winter at the Willow Street crossing was last seen on May 5 (Tracy Drake). Riley Daniels came upon a **Willow Flycatcher** on the Boundary Trail between Torrance and Palos Verdes Estates on May 8. **Hammond's Flycatchers** were at Sand Dune Park on Apr 23 (Jim Hecht) and Wilderness Park in Redondo Beach on May 1 (Adam Johnson). **Vermilion Flycatchers** were observed at Columbia Park, Entradero Park, and Magic Johnson Park. On May 9, Cathy and Jim in Rolling Hills spotted a pair of **Hutton's Vireos** in their yard at the top of the hill; they note that they nest every summer there. Bob Shanman found a Plumbeous Vireo at Entradero Park on May 5. Less commonly seen in our area is **Bell's Vireo**, which visited Harbor Park from April 19 through May 4 (Becky Turley, Christine Jacobs, and Meryl Edelstein); another was at Madrona Marsh on May 10 (TD). Four **Purple Martins** stopped by Jess Morton's home on Point Fermin on April



Purple Martin  
Photo: Jess Morton

26. William Baker photographed a seldom-seen **Bank Swallow** at Madrona on Apr 8; this swallow is distinguished by a brownish gray breast band. The very same day at Madrona, Mark Harris came upon an **Oak Titmouse**. A **Mountain Chickadee** was heard calling at the Top of the Hill on May 3. Gina DiPietro found a **White-breasted Nuthatch** at Harbor Park on May 3. Chris Dean observed a late **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at Banning Park on May 19. Meanwhile, **Phainopeplas** continued at Sand Dune Park and South Coast Botanic Garden into the middle of April; Brad Dawson found another at Willow Springs Park on Apr 12.

Several readers have remarked upon the appearance of a small, active bird with white eye-ring. This is **Swinhoe's White-eye**, an exotic bird from East Asia that was introduced into Orange County a few years ago. It has been moving gradually into the South Bay over the last four years. If you haven't seen it yet, you will soon.

**Lawrence's Goldfinches** continued at Harbor Park through Apr 25; another group visited Madrona Marsh from Apr 8 – 20. Graham Montgomery photographed a **Green-tailed Towhee** at his home in PVE on May 10. Michael Grossman spotted a **Slate-Colored Dark-eyed Junco** at Madrona Marsh on May 9. Tracy Drake was surprised to find a **Swamp Sparrow** (see below) in her back yard in Long



(Birds of the Peninsula continued on page 8)





Western Tanager Photo: Randy Harwood

Townsend's Warbler  
Photo: Randy Harwood



American Avocet Photo: Tracy Drake



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Photo: Keith Haney



Peregrine Falcon  
(female incubating eggs)



Photo: Jess Morton

Cactus Wren  
Photo: Jess Morton



Allen's Hummingbird  
Photo: Kim Moore



Barn Swallow Photo: Tracy Drake



Black Oystercatcher  
Photo: Jess Morton



## Birdathon 2025

See story on page 11



(Birds of the Peninsula continued from page 5)

Beach on Apr 6. The **Clay-colored Sparrows** at Madrona Marsh were last seen on Apr 30. Two late **White-crowned Sparrows** were seen on May 6: one at Entradero Park (Drew Messick) and one at Miraleste (M&M Neeno).

**Yellow-breasted Chats** were seen at Harbor Park from Apr 29 to May 6 (Manuel Duran and Alejandra Cedillo), Sand Dune Park on May 4 (Sara Boscoe), and Cabrillo Beach on May 6. Nancy Salem saw two **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** at Dominguez Gap on May 4; another was at the Willow Street crossing on May 2 (Dick Barth). The **Black-and-white Warbler** spending its eleventh winter at Madrona Marsh was last seen on Apr 19; here's wishing her a safe return in the fall! Meanwhile, the male B&W Warber at Wilderness Park was last seen on Apr 21. The **Northern Parula Warbler** at SCBG was last observed on Apr 24. A **Palm Warbler** was at Madrona Marsh Apr 8–15. Manuel Duran found a Tennessee Warbler at Harbor Park on Apr 29. Jim Hecht came across a **Virginia's Warbler** at Sand Dune Park on May 6. Lee Pace photographed an interesting **Myrtle x Audubon Yellow-rumped Warbler** at Polliwog Park on May 11. It possibly was the same warbler that Michele Reniche saw on May 24 — the latest report of a Yellow-rump in the area. Meanwhile, there have been an unusual number of reports of late **Hermit Warblers**

in the L.A. Basin, including one at Wilderness Park on May 26 (Mark Knight), one at the Rolling Hills Landfill on May 27 (Bobby T), and another at Sand Dune Park on May 30 (CD). Tracy Drake found a female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at Madrona Marsh on May 5, while Lee Pace had a male at Polliwog Park May 27.

Alta Vicente Preserve in RPV is the last stronghold of the **Cactus Wren** on the Peninsula. Randy Harwood found four of them there on May 19. Another was spotted nearby at Terranea on May 16 (Joe Prochaska). Adam Johnson found a **California Gnatcatcher** at Linden Chandler Preserve on the north side of the Peninsula on May 31; many others were seen on the south side. Benjamin Ewing saw the only reported **Rufous-crowned Sparrow** at Forrester Preserve on May 16.

On Apr 14, an impressive 1600 **Brant** were counted in the Channel from Point Vicente over a period of an hour. Other Brant were at Cabrillo Beach and Long Beach Harbor. A couple of **Cackling Geese** visited Alondra Park for a few days at the end of April (Lee Pace); another was at Polliwog Park on May 24 (MR). Jeanne Bellemin came upon a **Snow Goose** visiting Madrona Marsh on Apr 12. Dick Barth photographed a **Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal** at the Willow Street crossing on Apr 8; on May 30 he found a late **Northern Shoveler** there. Sara Boscoe and Russell Stone saw a **Cooper's Hawk**



Rose-breasted Grosbeak Photo: Lee Pace



Common Poorwill  
Photo: Anon.



Least Bittern  
Photo: Nancy Salem

take a **Common Poorwill** at Sand Dune Park on May 13; another Poorwill was photographed on the ground at Wilderness Park on May 12. Kim Moore had another unusual backyard bird on May 17 when she photographed an apparent **Black Swift** flying high overhead. A male **Costa's Hummingbird** was at Signal Hill on Apr 22 (CD), while a female was seen at the same place on May 1 (Joyce Brady); another was at SCBG on May 27 (Patty Drew). Chezy Yusuf chanced upon an unusual **Calliope Hummingbird** at Entradero Park on May 2. **Black-chinned Hummingbirds** cavorted at Friendship Park, Point Vicente, Signal Hill, and Virginia Country Club.

The **Common Gallinule**, which looks like a coot with a red bill, is sadly no longer common in our area. Yet Robert Theriault espied one while peering through the fence at Amie Sump (near Torrance City Hall) on Apr 4; Linda Pittman found two at Entradero Park May 15th. The

coot and the gallinule belong to the rail family, as does the **Sora**, one of which skulked in the tules at Harbor Park through April (Ed Griffin), and another hung out at Magic Johnson Park from February to Apr 19. **Snowy Plovers** usually like the beach, but one lost plover lingered on the L.A. River in late April. At the same time, five **Semipalmated Plovers** kept it company (Joyce Brady). **Long-billed Curlews** brought elegance to Cabrillo Beach and Manhattan Beach, as well as Willow Street in April. Also seen at Willow Street were a **Red Knot** on May 5 (Alexander Yan) and a **Dunlin** on Apr 8 (DB). Meanwhile, at Harbor Park, the intrepid team of Manuel Duran and Alejandra Cedillo found a **Wilson's Snipe** on Apr 17 and a **Solitary Sandpiper** on Apr 13. Always seen along the shoreline, a **Wandering Tattler** wandered by Cabrillo Beach in late April and early May (BT, CJ, & ME). **Black Skimmers** hung out at Cabrillo Beach and the L.A. River through May, while Benjamin Ewing saw two from Point Vicente on Apr 27. Susan Campbell observed six **Least Terns** in the Port of L.A. on Apr 26. An unseasonal **Common Loon** was at Redondo Canyon in Santa Monica Bay on June 1; eleven **Red-throated Loons** lingered in L.A. Harbor and Cabrillo Beach through the end of April; others were spotted out in the Channel. Up to six **Neotropic Cormorants** continued at the Willow Street crossing into June; others were at AES Wetland and Harbor Park. Breeding **Least Bitterns** were at Harbor Park and Dominguez Gap. Patty Drew came upon a group of twenty **White-faced Ibises** at Harbor Park on May 6; seven stopped at Willow Street on May 16 (DB).

Elsewhere in California, a **Parakeet Auklet** lingered at Trinidad Head near Eureka into June when it should have been on its breeding grounds in Alaska.

Vincent welcomes reports from readers about unusual birds found in the South Bay area (west of the Los Angeles River and south of I-105.)

Send reports to:  
stephenvincentlloyd@gmail.com.



## Our Bountiful Birdathon

By Keith Haney

A tremendous “thank you” to everyone who donated to the Birdathon fund-raiser! Our team of energetic birders scanned the community to find 124 species in our midst, which thanks to your generosity, resulted in pledges of \$17,187 to support our conservation efforts.

Although we continually seek out grant opportunities to advance our activities aligned with Audubon’s strategic Flight Plan, your contributions ensure we have a stable source of funding for habitat conservation, community science, and educating others to protect birds and the places they need.

Join me in also saying “gracias” to our team of birders who spent their Cinco de Mayo surveying as many locations as they could to find both the species who call our region home as well as the visitors migrating through: Tracy Drake, Randy Harwood, Vincent Lloyd, Evi Meyer, Kim Moore, Jess Morton, and Bob Shanman.

Among the 124 species spotted were the flashy Lazuli Bunting and Western Tanager, elegant Hooded Oriole (right), and Western Bluebird, mighty Red-shouldered Hawk and Great Horned Owl. Of course, our region is blessed with so many unique and wonderful birds, that I encourage you to check out the full eBird Trip Report from the day (<https://ebird.org/tripreport/360291>). Many photos are included in this issue’s center spread.

If you missed the chance to donate before, consider contributing a “bill a bird” (or other amount) via our website’s “Donate” page, or by mailing a check to: P.O. Box 2582, Palos Verdes, CA 90274. Thank you!

## Andrea Draws an Oriole

Working from photos, old images, skins, merely suggests how the bird’s bill tilts tasting the flower, how balancing tail turns.

Yet, see how these lovingly sketched lines kindle the tightening claws to grip bark, lengthen the fire-feathered wings toward flight and burnished a gleam in awakening eye so this bird seems poised on a twig’s end wanting but breath’s touch to embrace the sun.

It is this magic which flickers in limestone caves deep in Dordogne, where old brush strokes reflect

the wary, imagining eye of the first true men peering through skin to grasp empathized prey.

Men who’d have drawn in their breath at a photograph.

by Jess Morton  
from *Shorelines*



Hooded Oriole Photo: Tracy Drake

MEET, LEARN, RESTORE, ENJOY

## Chapter Calendar

Friday/Sunday July. 2-4th. **Field trip** to Big Morongo and Salton Sea for spring migrants. Email **Ann and Eric Brooks** at [motmots@aol.com](mailto:motmots@aol.com) for details and to register.

Sunday, July. 6th, at 8 AM: **Bird walk** at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park. Meet in the parking lot between Vermont and Anaheim above the ranger station.

Saturday, July 12th, daylight hours. 45th annual **Summer Butterfly Count**. Contact Keith Haney to take part. No experience necessary.

Tuesday, July. 15th, at 7, at Madrona Marsh. **Fabulous Peregrines** is the subject of the evening’s talk given by Rafa Ramirez.

Saturday, July. 25th, at 9. **Meet the Birds!** with **Keith Haney** at Madrona Marsh. Birding for all ages and levels of knowledge in a biologically blessed place. Come on out!

Sunday, August. 3rd, at 8 AM: **Bird walk** at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park. Meet in the parking lot between Vermont and Anaheim above the ranger station.

Tuesday, August. 19th, at 7, at Madrona Marsh. **Five Million Birds** is the subject of the evening’s talk given by Guido Berguido as he updates us on the work of Adopta Bosque Panama.

Saturday, August. 22nd, at 9. **Meet the Birds!** with **Keith Haney** at Madrona Marsh. Birding for all ages and levels of knowledge in a biologically blessed place. Come on out!

The Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society, of which PV/SB Audubon is the local chapter, are dedicated to the understanding and preservation of our natural heritage. Within the framework of National Audubon Society policies, we seek and implement ways to preserve indigenous flora and fauna, especially that of our local area, and provide educational services to the region’s communities with respect to birds, wildlife, ecology and conservation.

### Executive Officers and Staff

President:	Ann Dalkey
Vice-Pres.:	
Treasurer:	Julian Chasin
Secretary:	
Project Mgr:	Keith Haney <a href="mailto:projectmanager@pvsbaudubon.org">projectmanager@pvsbaudubon.org</a>
Directors:	Tracy Drake, Dianna Kim, Jess Morton, Jonathan Nakai, David Quadhamer

### Committees:

CBC:	Jonathan Nakai, <a href="mailto:pvbirder@gmail.com">pvbirder@gmail.com</a>
Field Trips:	Ann and Eric Brooks, <a href="mailto:motmots@aol.com">motmots@aol.com</a>
Hummin’:	Jess Morton, <a href="mailto:jmorton@igc.org">jmorton@igc.org</a>
Social Media:	Nina Su’a
Webmaster:	Dianna Kim, Brad Waller
YES:	Keith Haney

*Photos by the author unless stated otherwise.*

## Audubon Membership

To **join or renew** PV/SB Audubon membership, go to [Audubon.org](https://audubon.org) and select the link to Membership & Giving. Members receive Audubon Magazine and Hummin’, your chapter’s newsletter.

To get Hummin’ by email (and /or print), send your preference to [info@pvsbaudubon.org](mailto:info@pvsbaudubon.org).

## PV/SB Audubon Chapter Support

Support your local chapter’s work with checks made to PV/SB Audubon and mailed to: PO Box 2582, Palos Verdes, CA 90274 or give on line at [pvsbaudubon.org/donate](https://pvsbaudubon.org/donate).

## THIRD TUESDAY PROGRAMS

7 PM AT MADRONA MARSH

3201 PLAZA DEL AMO, TORRANCE



On **July 15th**, wildlife photographer **Rafa Ramirez** will show selections from his portfolio, including his amazing images of our local Peregrine Falcons. Meetings are in person or via Zoom link on our website.

On August 19th, founder of Adopta Bosque Panamá, **Guido Berguido**, will describe the success of the Hawkwatch we sponsored last season and discuss plans to create three new national parks.



Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 2582  
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

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## AVIANTICS

By Evi Meyer

